SPORT FOR OLD AND YOUNG WHEN THE BALL IS UP.

The Bicycle Girls Have Deserted the Academy for the Ponds in Central Park-Old-timers Grow Toung Again and the Youngsters, as Tauni, Are Bone? to Have Fun While Ice Lasts.

Skating began in earnest in Central Park on Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock, when a blg policeman ran out near the centre of the big lake, as it is called, and gave a shrill whistle. The lake at 110th street and the Fifty-ninth street lake were opened to the public on Tues-day, but skaters do not feel sure of sport until they are permitted to go upon the lake near the West Seventy-second street entrance. The emblem of skating, the white banner with a red ball as a centre piece, was run up on the flagstaff near the Webster monument, on the West Drive, soon after dawn, and simultaneously there appeared on the shores of the lake group of small boys and hangers-on who hoped to earn a neat sum by putting people on skates.

A little later came nurse maids with pretty children, some with skates in hand and others, too little to dream of skating, who carried



that learning to ride a bicycle indeers is, only

THE WHITE SKIRT. dle of that lake among so many hundreds of skaters. Everybody seems to be making straight for me, and when I mange to clude one scorcher here comes another doing the Don-



"GET OFF DE ICE."

snow shovels, and by and by came crowds of young and old men and fresh-looking girls and women of all ages.

oghue act, and before I get my breath after he has passed, about ten schoolboys, holding each other by the waists, come skimming toward me skating tandem. I tell you it's awful, and when I hear the ice crack the people in Columbus avenue can hear me shriek. Indeed, I'm not going to try any more!"

"Oh yes; the more you skate the better you will like it," said the expert, soothingly," and a college boy who caught this on the fly called





been skating every day for a year, some slipped, and before they knew it were unceremoniously salaaming on their faces or backs, and others merely ran rapidly forward on their skates. The numbers keptinereasing, and a few minutes after the schools closed, boys and girls from 6 years to 20 swooped down suddenly and took possession of the ice. The grown-up didn't relish this at first, but skating always puts everybody in a good humor, and soon those who

had objected were enjoying the youngsters. The Park Commissioners want the children to skate on the Fifty-ninth street pond, but that's just what the children do not want to do, and no doubt they will continue their revels among the big people until the skating is over.

The persons who stand most in awe of the children, with their mischievous ways, are the young women who have learned (or think they have) to skate in the artificial ice rinks. Lots of them were on hand on the opening day, and more have been coming every day since. One expressed the opinion of all in conversation with an expert as they sat on a bench to rest.

"I took seven lessons at the ice rink, and could go around beautifully alone. When I said that I was going to try outdoor skating my instructor told me that I wouldn't find it any trouble at all—that that was the beauty of learning in a rink. It's the same kind of beauty

The saying that fine feathers do not make fine birds does not nold good with small boys from the east side, for they literally fell down and worshipped the man in his natty bicycle



THE THREE PAIR SKATERS.

PUTTING ON HER SKATES.



a well-known flustrator, and he and his chums were from the Art League.

The men weren't the only dressed-up skaters there; pretty schoolgirls in bright sweaters and cute Tam o' Shanters, stylish young maidens in tailor-made, fur-trimmed suits, with swell-looking turbans or fur caps, and scores of comely matrons, young and middle aged, in jaunty wraps and aipine hats, were skating as if there was to be only one day for the fun. Some of the men declared openly that they had expected to see a good many women turn out in bloomers, but they were disappointed, though if the truth were told some women would like to adopt such a costume for the aport. The women skaters suffer more than the men from the cold, and crowds of them retire to the wheel, learn much more readily than those who do not. There are several reasons for this, the main one being that confidence is necessary to the mastery of both sports, and the confidence gained in the bicycle academy is of great ad-

THE SCHOOLGINL.

house on the upper end of the lake to get warm. Here the old women who keep the house gives out motherly advice as she sits by the stove rocking from morning until night. As their feet begin to thaw, their tongues begin to lossen, and they chatter to each other regardless of introductions.

A pretty schoolgirl who had attracted considerable attention by her fancy skating was the centre of attraction in the warming room. "How is it that you can get around so easily?" sked an elderly woman who had been struggling on the ice in a sealskin cape and a crinolined skirt measuring no less than seven yards around.

yards around,
"Oh, I dress properly and wear the right kind
of skates. I wear a union suit, no corsets, light
weight, finely woven woollen stockings



vantage to the person who is ambitious to cavort on a sheet of frozen water.

After all, it deem't matter so much whether one goes skimming around like a bird or falls all over himself so long as he is happy, and every one on skates seems to be happy, indging by the laughter that arises above the shrieks of the small boys and that ecloses along the hills and dales of the Fark from dawn until dark. At nightall, as the lights from the shore fall fittuily over the lee, the skaters go home, but not to skay, for as soon as dinner is over they are back again minus the dear, tantalizing juveniles, and again they enjoy the sport just as if they hadn't been there all day. The witching high time, when the skaters stand out against the gray flouds like a kaleidoscope of slihouettes, is the time when young men with their best girls and family parties most enjoy themselves, for they know that they have possession of the ire by right of custom.

Capt. Collins of the Park police, who is always on the side of tun, frolk, and young folks, says that unless a protracted thaw, accommanded by rain, comes, skating will continue for several weeks. He bases his prediction on the fact that the ice is more durable than that which is formed from snow water, and every skater, young or old, is more than willing to believe him.

TOASTMASTERS ON THE TABLE. Each Armed with a Glittefing Bowle-An Episode of Missouri Politics,

From the St. Louis Republic.
Fayette, Mo., in the early days of the State, was the great political centre. It was there the politics and policies of the commonwealth were made up, both Whig and Democratic. Every election year a great barbecue was arranged, at which all of the great men of Missouri-all the politicians and young men who desired to train for leadership met. From every section of the

State they came.

It was in 1838 that the greatest of the great barbecues was held there. The meeting was held on the slope of the ridge on which now stands Central College, and north of Howard College. It was a picturesque spot, and the 10,000 men who were there from all portions of the State with their tents and wagons in the valley, gave to the scene the appearance similar to what may be conjectured of the Israelitish camp when they went up to Jerusalem during their annual pilgrimage. The pits in which were

whether the content in the analysis which were designed to the content of the con

The Private New York Western in Caree The Private New York Western in Caree The Private New York Western in Caree The Private New York Western in the String department of a jewely store the other day. One was talk store, and it not make the other hands of the eart; the other was small and fair, "Care The Private Private New York Western State of the Private New York Western New

A TIPSY SCENE BY A WOMAN

ISABEL IRVING'S TASK IN THE NEW PLAY AT THE LYCEUM.

She Is Required to Mimic Tipsiness in a Lindy The Task More Difficult Refore as American Audience than in London— Miss Mando Adams's Similar Problem,

When Maude Adams made talk several years ago by her mimicry of a tipsy woman in "The Masked Ball" her audience felt that it was touch and go whether or not this scene would ruin the play. They knew that Miss Adams in her character on the stage was simply play acting to deceive her husband, but even so, the experiment was dangerous, and the test was a crucial one for an actress of even the greatest skill. Miss Adams escaped failure by the guilefulist sort of adroit comicality. Isabel Irving has been playing the part of a tipsy woman at the Lyceum this past week, and the character that she portrays is that of a lady. She is not simulating to the actors on the stage only, as was Miss Adams, but to the audience also. The situation calls for suggestion and approximation, but its success depends upon the actress's skill in avoiding gross-ness, and opinions of Miss Irving's work may be as different as the standards that critics may have set up for themselves as to the conduct of a woman who gets tipsy without malice aforethought. For the purpose of the play Miss Irving must,

For the purpose of the play Miss Irving must, in this one scene, get jolly thesy with the aid of bleached blond tea, that serves on the stage as champagne, and her skill as an actress, and at the same time she must sustain her character as a lady. Mr. Pinero, the dramatist, has set forth a difficult task, and he made it doubly so in the case of an American audience. It must be remembered that this dramatist has an audience of also own in London, and that its social conditions differ from those of his New York audiences. In "The Benefit of the Doubt" Miss Irving plays the part of a wife who indulges rather recklessly in freedom of conduct, and frankly admits that her husband has thred her and that she finds him a bore. There is no suspicion of actual wrong doing in "conduct, but she has made a better friend of her husband, and the friend's wife, who is naturally jealous, brings her into the divorce court.

The court gives Miss Irving the benefit of the doubt and dismisses the case. The audience knows all about this when the second act begins, and it is convinced that though reckless Miss Irving has not been guilty of the misconduct suspected by the jealous wife. The audience regrets that she has not had more regard for appearances, and it believes that the Judge was unnecessarily severe in his lecture to her. Her mother and her chump of a brother believe in her, but her husband has his doubts. He says so frankly and he want time to think it over.

Miss Irving, smarting under the Judge's rebuke and the knowledge of her husband's suspicions, leaves him and goes to see Mr. Kelecy, who is the tertum quid in the case. She has been in court all day and she is faint and hungry when she calls on Mr. Kelecy in his cottage at Ensom late in the evening. Although the that the was been in court all day and she is faint and hungry when she calls on Mr. Kelecy in his cottage at Ensom late in the evening. Although the or reckless with something of the spoiled hungry when she calls on Mr. Kelecy in his cottage at Ensom late in t in this one scene, get jolly tipsy with the aid of bleached blond tea, that serves on the stage

cuit, and from the sideboard brings a glass of champagne. Miss Irving slips the wine first. Sile glevs a little sigh of satisfication, and sips again and smiles.

The champagne exhibitantes her at once, as it properly should under the circumstances. Miss Irving settles back comfortably in her chair and finishes the wine in the glass. She is joyously tipsy. She pours another glass of wine for herself, and she is solicitous that Mr. Kelcey's glass should be well filled that he also may share in the joy of the wine. Miss Irving is now intoxicated, and her troubles are forgotten for the moment. Mr. Pinero's play was written for a London audience, and that may explain the touch in this scene that vaguely suggests the Tenderloin. Miss Irving spies a cigarette on the table before her.

The old brand, Jack' she asks, and with the skill of much practice she places it between her lips, lights it rather unsteadily, and in perfect enjoyment inhales a puff and blows it out again. She chuckles with delight, and her movements, although she is still scated in the chair, are wild and free.

Miss Irving has not smoked a cigarette, so far as the audience knows, up to that time, There are women in New York who do smoke cigarettes, and do it gracefully, but the habit is by no means so popular here as we have been led to believe that it is in London. New York correspondents of out-of-town papers enjoy telling their country readers that a cigarette case is an essential part of every fashionable woman's outfit, and there are women outside of the Tenderloin circles who do have cigarette case is an essential part of every fashionable of the Tenderloin circles who do have cigarette case is an essential part of cery fashionable of the Tenderloin circles who do have cigarette with the same quantity and fashion as do their husbands and brothers. But, as a matter of fact, New York is not yet quite up to seeing a woman puff her cigarette with little sichs of enjoyment. It is the first thing that Miss Irving turns to the targeer it carries wit

FARGO'S DIVORCE INDUSTRY.

It Pays the Town About a Quarter of a Million Dollars Annually. From the Minneapolis Journal.

Million Bollars Annually.

From the Minneapolis Journal.

FARGO, N. D., Jan. 4.—North Dakota has pained considerable notoriety throughout the East for the ease with which divorees are secured within its borders. Fargo has more fame in this direction than any citer town, for various reasons. It is most easily reached and affords the pleasure-loving contingent greater opportunities than any city in the State, except Grand Forks. Its hotels are new and up to date and there are numerous private boarding houses that cater especially to those who are here to end their marital troubles.

The modus operandi is simple. In nine cases out of ten the defendant in the suit is as willing that a decree should be secured as the plaintiff, and aids in every possible way by accepting service and employing a local legal light to look after his interests. In such cases the decree is often secured within ten days after the ninety-day probation has expired. In fact it has sometimes occurred that the divorce was granted within ninety-one days after the applicant arrived in Fargo. In these cases, of course, personal service was secured, and there was no contest in the way of alimony. In cases of desertion, or in others, where the residence of the defendant is unknown, six weeks additional is required for the publication of summons. The attorney's fee varies from \$50 to any higher amount with the trouble necessary to secure the decree and the ability of the claintiff to pay. The colony includes people in all walks of life. Even laboring men come here and work while establishing their residence. These are the exception, however. The seekers after single blessedness are, as a ruie, well supplied with funds and able to pay liberally for what they get. Some distinguished people have been temporary residents of the State and are men and women in all walks of life and titled foreigness are not an exception.

The divorce business has frequently been referred to as a North Dakota intends for the local attorney. In addition to these expenditure